



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Maritime
Administration**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

MAY 19 P 4:23

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Kenneth J. Kies
Managing Director
Clark Consulting
Federal Policy Group
101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Suite 701 East
Washington, D.C. 20001

May 19, 2004

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Re: **Docket No. MARAD-2003-15171 -- Vessel Documentation: Lease Financing
For Vessels Involved in the Coastwise Trade**

Dear Mr. Kies:

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has received your May 10, 2004 letter requesting an extension in the comment period for the subject docket. MARAD has considered the circumstances set forth in your letter and has made a determination to reopen the comment period for the purpose of receiving for consideration any and all comments filed post-May 4, 2004, and to provide time to conduct the previously planned Nabors Industries meeting (a report of which will be promptly filed in the subject docket). Accordingly, the new deadline for filing comments in Docket No. MARAD-2003-15171 is 5:00 pm EDT on the date two weeks following the publication of the notice to reopen in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Joel C. Richard
Secretary
Maritime Administration